

GREG WALDEN
CHAIRMAN



ROB SIMMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 29, 2016

60 MINUTES
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Ms. Norah O'Donnell, Ms. Patricia Shevlin and Mr. Miles Doran –

On last Sunday's broadcast, 60 Minutes reported a story that included largely false information about the purpose and internal operations of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC). We would like to set the record straight.

Of course, the NRCC provides support to our members as that has been the committee's mission for more than 100 years. Members are free to make phone calls in our office space to perform campaign activities when they are in Washington, especially since political activities cannot — and should not — be performed in their official, taxpayer-funded offices.

In your interview, Congressman David Jolly describes a meeting with the NRCC where he was told he was required to raise \$18,000 each day through fundraising calls. Simply put, this meeting never happened. It is a work of fiction. Had the reporter or producer of the story bothered to verify this claim, they would have been told as much.

Your story included several additional inaccuracies and several facts that were left out. First, the story failed to acknowledge the significant contributions made by the NRCC and Republican members of Congress to then-candidate David Jolly's special election campaign in 2014. The NRCC spent in excess of \$2 million in support of Mr. Jolly's race, significantly more than the congressman raised and spent on his own behalf. Why is it important for your viewers to see the congressman condemning a committee largely responsible for his election? Because it would have shed a light on the likely intentions behind his legislation — a publicity stunt designed to help a lagging and underfunded Senate campaign.

Additionally, you failed to explain one of the biggest contributing factors to the increasing costs of running a congressional campaign — the cost of advertising on broadcast television stations. If CBS is so concerned about the costs of campaigns, maybe you should produce an exposé of your television station owners and managers who routinely increase ad rates for political activities because of the potential profits involved. If your network would like to lead an effort to rein in advertising rates, not only would I be happy to join that effort, but I'm sure a very large, bipartisan coalition of elected leaders and public interest groups could be assembled to assist. I will not hold my breath in waiting for this reporting or these efforts.

Most importantly, though, your story left out one significant statistic. In 2014, 94% of Republican incumbents — including David Jolly — were re-elected by their constituents. This was not because of call suites or solicitation scripts. Our members were re-elected because they work extremely hard in Washington, D.C. and in their districts representing and serving their constituents. A fairer and more balanced story would have also included these time commitments, which for many members is typically six-to-seven days a week.

Finally, while this story was being written, 60 Minutes asked for permission to film inside our offices. As you are aware, this request was denied. Despite being explicitly denied permission to enter our private offices, a CBS producer plainly admits on camera that 60 Minutes intentionally and knowingly trespassed or encouraged another to trespass in our offices to film footage. Not since Watergate has the headquarters of a major political party committee been so violated. CBS conspired with an anonymous staffer to enter our offices and obtain unauthorized footage under false pretenses. This is not journalism. This is trespassing.

One would have hoped that CBS was making ethical standards a priority after past ethical breaches at 60 Minutes forced multiple members of your staff to resign in disgrace. However, your actions in this story make it clear that this has not been the case.

Sincerely,



Rob Simms
Executive Director
National Republican Congressional Committee

Paid for by the NRCC and not authorized by any candidate or
candidate's committee.

www.nrcc.org

NRCC
320 First Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 479-7000



www.nrcc.org